

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /129 W

----- 106945

P R 311115Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4028

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS BEIRUT 10346

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

KUWAIT FOR GULF POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: KING FEISAL COMMENTS ON SAUDI OIL POLICY

REF: BEIRUT 8548 AND 9815

1. INDEPENDENT BEIRUT WEEKLY AL HAWADITH AUG. 30
CARRIED LENGTHY FEATURE ARTICLE BY OWNER-EDITOR SELIM
LAWZI BASED ON TWO SUPPOSEDLY OFF-THE-RECORD INTERVIEWS
WITH KING FEISAL AND HIS SON PRINCE SAUD. INTERVIEWS,
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GIVEN DURING SADAT'S RECENT VISIT TO JIDDA, STRESSED

SAUDI RELUCTANCE TO USE OIL AS WEAPON AGAINST ISRAEL
BUT KING'S WILLINGNESS TO FINANCE ARAB ARMAMENTS WITH
OIL REVENUES. ACCORDING TO LAWZI, KING CRITICIZED
OTHER ARABS FOR SHORTSIGHTED EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL OF
ARAB OIL IN STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL: "THERE IS GREAT
STRESS ON THIS SLOGAN" (I.E., CURTAILMENT OF ARAB OIL
PRODUCTION TO EXERT PRESSURE ON USG), "AS IF SOMEONE
WERE TRYING DELIBERATELY TO FORCE ARABS TO GAMBLE WITH
THEIR STRONGEST WEAPON". RECALLING NASSER'S QUESTION
AT 1967 KHARTOUM SUMMIT MEETING, FEISAL REPORTEDLY ASKED:
"WHERE WOULD WE GET MONEY WE NEED IF WE CUT OFF OIL,
NOT ONLY TO SUPPORT OUR COUNTRY BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE TO OUR BROTHERS ON FRONTLINES (FACING ISRAEL)?"

2. LAWZI SAID FEISAL AND SADAT HAVE AGREED ON FORMULA
WHEREBY SAG WOULD FINANCE HALF OF NEW EGYPTIAN ARMS EXPENDI-
TURES (500 MILLION STERLING ON FIGHTER-BOMBERS, HELICOP-
TERS AND GROUND-AIR AND AIR-AIR-MISSILES), WITH REMAINDER
TO BE PAID BY KUWAIT, ABU DHABI AND QATAR, THUS "MAKING
OIL A SOURCE OF WEAPONS, INSTEAD OF BEING A WEAPON ITSELF".
HE REPORTED FEISAL IS ALSO WILLING HELP EGYPT REPAY PAST
LOANS FROM SOVS, WHOM KING DESCRIBED AS GUILTY OF WITH-
HOLDING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS FROM ARABS WHILE ALLOWING JEWISH
EMIGRATION TO STRENGTHEN ISRAEL. FEISAL ALSO NOTED US ME
POLICY HAD BEEN "REASONABLE" UNTIL RECENT US-USSR DETENTE,
BUT THAT SOV INFLUENCE HAD NOW LED USG TO OVERDO ITS
"HEEDLESS SUPPORT" FOR ISRAEL.

3. PRINCE SAUD BIN FEISAL ALSO REPORTEDLY DISPARAGED
ROLE OF OIL AS WEAPON: "IS OIL AN ARTILLERY SHELL THAT CAN
BE FIRED ONLY ONCE?" PRINCE POINTED OUT TACTICS OF USING OIL
AS INSTRUMENT OF PRESSURE ARE COMPLEX, NOTING THAT JAPAN AND
WESTERN EUROPE WOULD BE HURT BEFORE ANY SHORTAGE WAS FELT IN
US. HE STRESSED NEED FOR ARABS TO WIN WORLD FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT
INSTEAD OF GENERATING APPREHENSIONS, AND SAID, "ISRAEL
TODAY REAPS FRUIT OF PAST ARAB MISTAKES" IN THIS REGARD.

4. FULL TRANSLATION OF LAWZI ARTICLE BEING POUCHED DEPT.
AND INFO ADDRESSEES.
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NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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